

To Small Children an

TR 5C JUL 24 1955

Kids are as amusing as many professional entertainers — if you can only get them started when in front of an audience. This basic human fact is well known to KRON-TV's George Lemont, who has the magic talent of knowing what to do about juvenile situations.

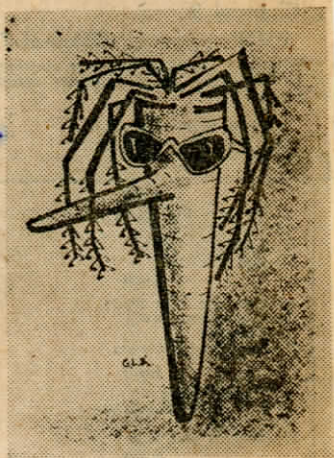
Watch him as he interviews the children on his Saturday chapter of Fireman Frank (Channel 4, 11:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.) You'll see what I mean. He gets away from the stock "that's - a - pretty - dress - how - old - are - you?" routine. Instead, his friendly verbal probe usually finds just the one topic a youngster is interested in. Then self consciousness is drowned in a flood of words.

Take eagle eggs, for example ... an unlikely subject for any show but George's. One little girl said she had eaten eagle eggs for breakfast. Scrambled. Then she told how her family had found them, cooked them and liked them. It was quite a story, told in detail and with a straight face. George, for once, was speechless. He never did learn her age, and ever since he's been trying to figure out if maybe she was just having her little joke. Could be ... or could it?

Fireman Frank has an odd assortment of puppet friends. There's "Jack Pappenhauser," who swings a wicked mallet; "Dynamo Dudley," the friendly robot; "Scat the Cat," a Brooklynese contest master, "Sir Something or Other," an English hare so named because George couldn't think of a definite name; and the star of the show—"Carl the Carrot."

Short Life Span

Carl arrived on Earth from another planet at about the time 3-D pictures hit the theaters. The reason he still wears dark glasses is because his eyes are weak from seeing every 3-D picture that came to town. Oddly enough, the star of the show has a life span of about two weeks. Then comes a time of tears for George. He must bury his weak-eyed friend and find a new carrot. Lemont claims he has never



CARL CARROT

He doesn't talk plainly

and that certainly isn't wrong. Or maybe you'll believe he has the unmatched kind of talent that big time showbusiness is crying for. And you would certainly be right.

In any case, George can be seen and heard in several places. On Fireman Frank (Channel 4) Monday through Friday at 6 p.m.; on the six hour Fireman Frank jamboree Saturdays; and on his daily radio program. He also has filled nightclub engagements from time to time.

Native Son

Lemont has been part of the local scene for sometime. In fact he was born in San Francisco and graduated from Mission High. Then he went to Heald's Engineering College, but this didn't seem quite right so he later became an architect's assistant. This wasn't quite right, either, so he branched into cartooning. Then came the war and the higher-ups decided cartoons weren't for George so they put him in the Air Force where he wore a Tech Sergeant's uniform.

That came to an end, and some time later television had its local beginning. George decided he and TV were made for each other, which must be true because they have been together for the last five years. A happy combination.

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It's hard to tell how George got the way he is. You can call him a comedian if you want, but he's a different kind of comedian. The keynote seems to be that he always has fun with what he does. And he makes his studio audience have fun, too. His approach is sincere, his material is always fresh and his dialogue has the unusual quality of keeping the whole family entertained. His stories—and he has a million of 'em—come bubbling forth from an inborn sense of humor, relying heavily on puns and impossible situations. Being an adept cartoonist helps, too. This gives him a fast change of pace from the verbal to the visual in punching home a gag or highlighting a crazy angle to a story.

If you want to be your own critic you'll have your way to describe him. Maybe you'll call him an undiluted screwball . . .

FROM
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BAY AREA

FALSE ALARM—The wife of George W. Lemont, television's "Fireman Frank," has obtained an annulment to their three-year-old marriage. Mrs. Marjorie C. Lemont, 27, won the annulment in San Mateo County Superior Court on grounds that Lemont, 34, married her two days before a divorce from his first wife, Cornelia, became final.

SEP 22 1974

Meet 'Dr. Smock'

Need a tonic?

The "miracle drug" is Dr. Smock—a new daily comic strip that has all of the ingredients for laughs, laughs, laughs—the sure cure for the blues.

In addition to Dr. Smock, you will meet the staff of the Lotta Heart Memorial Hospital, as well as some unusual patients: a wacky psychiatrist, Dr. Freid, who is a bit strange himself; Dr. Downer, the head surgeon; Vern the Intern; Miss Aiken, the hypochondriac; and many other memorable characters.

All of this from the fertile brain of the Bay Area's own well-known George Lemont. Dr. Smock starts tomorrow on The Tribune comic page.